

## STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF NEW YORK.

## PREVENTION OF SMALL-POX.

## Duties of the Local Authorities—Health Officers and Others.

The State Board of Health, at its meeting December 13, 1881, directed that the Health Officer and Board of Health in every place where there is *Small-pox*, in this State, shall receive from the Secretary of the State Board whatever aid this Board can give for controlling the contagion; and it is required of all health authorities and other persons who know of any outbreak or case of Small-pox, that they shall report the facts immediately to the Secretary of this Board and to the nearest Health Officer.

SMALL-POX IS LIABLE TO APPEAR IN ANY PLACE where there are unvaccinated persons. It is dangerous to life, and is a misfortune which causes loss and great disturbance in the affairs of any community that does not immediately secure to every inhabitant the necessary protection by **vaccination** and **re-vaccination**, and by thorough quarantine and disinfection of the contagion.

## The Laws in this State require:—

(1.) That all who are in attendance at the public schools shall present evidence of their being vaccinated; also that after ten days' notice any person may be excluded from school who is not so protected against Small-pox. (Chap. 438, Laws of 1860.)

(2.) That it shall be the duty of all local Boards of Health promptly to report to the State Board of Health every case of Small-pox, and to immediately provide thorough and safe vaccination for all persons who need the same, within the jurisdiction of said local Board; also to isolate and keep in quarantine, and to regulate, prohibit or prevent communication or intercourse with persons, houses and places that have Small-pox.

(3.) That the local Board of Health shall suitably provide places and means for the complete separation and sanitary care of infected persons and things.

VACCINATION IS A PUBLIC DUTY for the protection of the whole community as well as of each individual and family; and it is so necessary to secure its protection in all places and for all classes of people that **none have a right to neglect it** for themselves, their families, the public schools or the community. The State Board of Health has directed its Secretary to give

whatever information or advice is needed to secure the most perfect vaccine matter and the speediest and best application of it whenever and wherever it is required.

THE STATE BOARD ADVISES and requires that the law for **vaccination** of all who attend school shall be faithfully observed ; and

That every local Board of Health be prepared against Small-pox,—

By an agreement with all physicians to secure perfect vaccination in every household where they attend :

By instructions to Health Officers to ascertain who are un-vaccinated and exposed :

By notifying the State Board of Health at once, when and where Small-pox appears, and by telegraphing or writing to this Board what their wants are ; and

By requiring prompt compliance with the local Board's orders, and by immediately instructing and aiding the community in regard to the same.

**The State Board will co-operate with the Local Boards of Health :—**

By immediately answering and complying with requests from local authorities ;—

By telegraphing and writing to secure the best means of vaccinating ;—

By sending to local authorities brief suggestions for immediate use in the community ;—

By supplying the few forms for records and reports which are required, together with the Board's printed cards of information relating to vaccination, disinfection, and the suppression of the contagion ; and,

By guaranteeing the payment for limited requisitions, by the local Boards of Health, for fresh and pure vaccinal lymph from heifers, to meet any urgent necessity that cannot be provided for by the local authorities at the moment,—the said authorities then promising payment.

A WORD OF SUGGESTION AND WARNING TO ALL. *Every infant* should be vaccinated before it is six months old, unless a good physician advises to the contrary. Every person who has passed the age of twelve years should be re-vaccinated with fresh heifer virus, to test the fact of complete protection against Small-pox ; and those who have had that disease should be vaccinated, as it may attack a person who was marked by it, as well as a person who has been only once vaccinated. **Sufficient vaccination removes all liability** to the disease. For this purpose **re-vaccination is earnestly advised**. Vaccination with lymph from clean and healthy inoculated heifers causes no disease. It can be obtained fresh every day from perfectly healthy calves, and within a day or two can be at hand for use in any town in this State, at a cost of from seven to twelve cents for each "slip" or "point." The Board of Health in each of the cities is earnestly requested to keep such a supply of *vaccine* at hand that it can instantly meet any exigency, or furnish a neighboring community with a few points of the lymph at cost. It should be inserted by physicians only, and they should examine the result at the end of seven days.

### **What to do when Small-pox occurs:—**

(1.) Place the sick in a separate room from which all clothing, carpets, upholstered stuff and the quilts and feather bedding have been removed. In such a room with open windows and an open fire, keep the sick and nurses entirely separated (quarantined) from all other persons until the Doctor and Health Officer take charge. Then **follow their requirements.**

(2.) Let all persons who are near the sick be immediately vaccinated afresh, and let it be understood from the first that all bedding, clothing, towels and cloths which are touched or used by the sick shall be burned; and every place where the sick are, and where there is anything that has come from or been exposed to them, shall be thoroughly disinfected as soon as possible.

(3.) A separate place, or even a hut constructed for the purpose, should be so prepared as to be safer for the sick than any ordinary dwelling rooms; that is, that the fresh air and sanitary care and nursing shall be the best possible; and that it shall be an apartment and locality from which the contagion will not be spread abroad.

(4.) That no delay or objection shall prevent the vaccination of all persons who have been in any manner exposed, or suspected of exposure, to the contagion. That if fresh **vaccine** is not at hand, the physician, or the Health Officer shall telegraph to the nearest person who can supply it. If that request is not immediately complied with, then telegraph the State Board of Health.

(5.) In case of death, wrap the corpse in a sheet saturated with the strongest disinfectant, and bury it in a deep grave within twenty-four hours, and without a public funeral.

(6.) Disinfect according to the rules given in the State Board's circular on Disinfection (No. 16).

### **SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS.**

The State Board of Health recommends that in whatever city, village or town Small-pox appears, the entire neighborhood in which there has been any communication with the patient, or exposure to the contagion, shall be notified that the *State Board as well as the local Board of Health requires that every person shall be protected by Vaccination*; that whatever materials are infected shall be destroyed by fire or shall be kept in the zinc and salt solution and be boiled without removal from the premises; that rooms and furniture suspected of contagion shall be fumigated with sulphur as directed by this Board's rules; that tramps and other persons suspected of infection with Small-pox, shall be taken in charge by the police and the sanitary authorities; that **employers shall advise their companies of employed persons to be vaccinated**; and, in case of Small-pox in their vicinity, to make such vaccination one of the conditions of being continued in employment. This rule should be strictly enforced in all manufactories that make goods which are liable to become infected, and especially should be a standing regulation in public houses and in all classes employed on railroad trains and passenger vessels.

## FORM OF REPORT TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH AND TO THE LOCAL BOARD.

(Name)

..... is sick with Small-pox (or varioloid) at ..... The (Date)

eruption began .....

It is believed the contagion was taken at ..... by exposure to .....

No. of Persons now exposed to Patient .....

Who has the responsible care and custody of the case ? .....

(Signed) .....

(P. O. address) .....

REQUEST:

Such a notice, with the request that needs to be made, should be sent to the Health Officer or the nearest member of the local Board of Health. If the physician is already in attendance, he should sign it; but if no physician has reached the patient, the householder and any other person that has charge of the case should sign this first report and request, and send it to the family physician or to the Health Officer. The physician who first sees the case, or the Health Officer, should write out such a brief report and his own request, and send it by mail to the Secretary of the State Board of Health. If in a place where there is no local authority, Health Officer or physician, send the report, by first mail, to the Secretary of the State Board of Health.

*Subsequent Reports.* The physicians and the Health Officer will please agree upon the report which shall be made to the State Board on its card, (No. 31,) for reporting the history of cases of Small-pox.

*Vaccination Records and Reports.* The form of records of inspection and vaccination prepared by the State Board of Health for the use of Health Authorities and Physicians, is given on the leaflet marked [No. 39]. Every Health Officer is earnestly requested to make and preserve such a record, and to transmit a copy of it to the State Board. **Physicians who vaccinate** ten or more persons at any time during the year are likewise requested to make up and preserve this kind of record [No. 39], and to give the State Board of Health a copy. The blank form will be furnished and the postage supplied for such reports, on notice.

**VACCINATION**, properly applied, **is as effective now as it ever was**, but the medical and sanitary care to secure the perfect results which give protection are so vitally important, that the records of experience are to be henceforth preserved and studied to enable the people to obtain and voluntarily seek the benign protection which is needed against the loathsome contagion which **threatens every person who is not well vaccinated**. Prudent and timely action will prevent the attack of this **blighting pest**, as well as stamp it out. Panic and delay are worse in the presence of Small-pox than in the midst of a raging conflagration in a city; and the Vaccinator and Sanitary Inspector disarm the contagious destroyer as readily as the fire brigade—at a touch of the fire-keys—will suppress flames, before panic can occur. Timely action, controlling means, and suitable methods, prevent panic and loss in the presence of Small-pox. For this reason, **Vaccination is a Public Duty, and Sanitary Law to provide for it and prevent contagion, is a necessity**.

Published by order of the Board;

ELISHA HARRIS,

Secretary.